

***Stethophyma lineata***  
(Scudder)  
**Striped Sedge Grasshopper**

**Description:** Yellow to pale green slender grasshopper. Lateral carinae of pronotum cut by three sulci. Side of forewing above the hind femur always with a white horizontal streak. Lower surface of hind femora red. Hind tibiae pale with black spines.

**Range:** New England west to Alaska and south to Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa.

**Wisconsin distribution:** Found in two northern counties and the southwestern corner of Wisconsin.

**State rank:** S3?.

**Habitat:** Wet prairie in Grant County, marsh and peaty swale within the Lake Superior beach and dune system, and northern sedge meadow in northern Wisconsin.

**Discussion:** No specimens of *Stethophyma* sp. were found in the collections. The grasshoppers are strong fliers and difficult to catch as they quickly cross an area of wetland and drop into the vegetation. Both *S. gracile* and *S. lineata* were collected at the Marinette County site, a large open sedge meadow area, part of a sizable wetland complex. These species might be quite local in distribution. Wetland habitats were poorly collected during this study. These adults were collected late July to mid-August.

**Specimens examined:** 5 males, 1 female from 4 sites.

**References:** Hebard (1932), Otte (1981), Vickery and Kevan (1985).



*Grasshoppers of Wisconsin*

# GRASSHOPPER SPECIES ACCOUNTS



GIFF BEATON

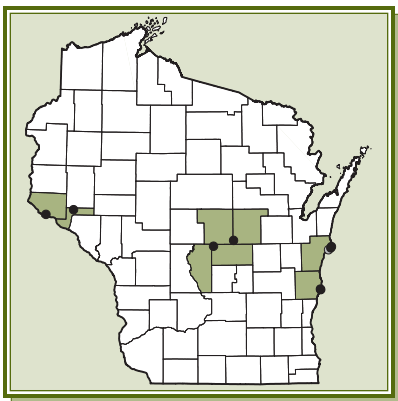
Acridinae

GOMPHOCERINAE

Cyrtacanthacridinae

Melanoplinae

Oedipodinae



## GOMPHOCERINAE

### *Aeropedellus clavatus* (Thomas)

#### Clubhorned Grasshopper

**Description:** Medium-sized grasshopper. Females gray, males gray with green markings on head, pronotum, and hind femora. Head obviously slanted with clubbed antennae and a white stripe extending down from the eye. Forewings shorter than abdomen.

**Range:** Canadian prairies and central Great Plains from Idaho to Minnesota, predominant along the front range of the Rocky Mountains.

**Wisconsin distribution:** Found in sandy areas south of the Tension Zone.

**State rank:** S2.

**Habitat:** Dry open grasslands in association with sandy soil, and Lake Michigan dunes.

**Discussion:** Adults collected mostly in June and July. At one site in Pepin County, specimens were readily collected in yellow pan traps. No stridulation has been recorded from Wisconsin *A. clavatus*.

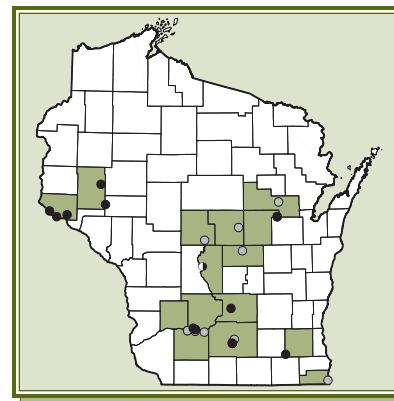
**Specimens examined:** 11 males, 14 females from 10 sites. Most (17 of 25) recorded from the most recent collection period.

**References:** Hebard (1932), Cantrall (1968), Otte (1981), Vickery and Kevan (1985), Pfadt (1994), NHI (2001).

see Color Plate, p. 33



JOHN A. HAARSTAD



### *Ageneotettix deorum* (Scudder)

#### Whitewiskered Grasshopper

**Description:** Small to medium-sized, reddish-brown grasshopper. Antennae light colored or white. Head not dramatically slanted. Forewings extend to end of abdomen. Hind femora with black dorsal markings. Hind tibiae red.

**Range:** California east to Michigan.

**Wisconsin distribution:** Collected from counties at or south of the Tension Zone.

**State rank:** S3?.

**Habitat:** Disturbed sand plains with patches of bare ground, Wisconsin River sand terraces, sandblows, sand prairies, and a few sites in oak openings.

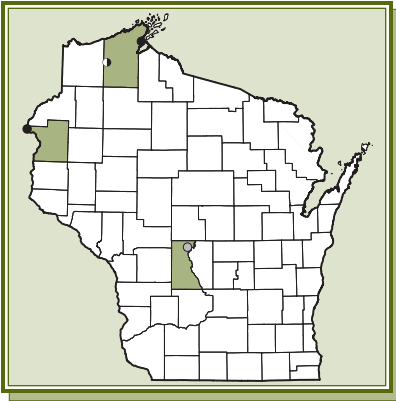
**Historical Note:** A 1912 specimen labeled "Kenosha dune region" is from a narrow sand dune area of the southern Lake Michigan shoreline created by glacial Lake Chicago. This area is now highly disturbed and existence of the species at the site is unlikely.

**Discussion:** Adults are collected from July to October. Over half of the specimens are from the most recent collection period.

**Specimens examined:** More than 90 specimens from 30 sites.

**References:** Hebard (1932), Otte (1981), Vickery and Kevan (1985), Pfadt (1994).

see Color Plate, p. 34



***Chloea abdominalis***  
(Thomas)

**Rocky Mountain  
Sprinkled Grasshopper**

**Description:** Small, light brown grasshopper. Forewings to end of abdomen with rounded tips in males, much shorter and pointed in females. Lateral lobes of male pronotum dark in upper one-third. Hind femora unmarked. Hind tibiae reddish-orange, paler at base.

**Range:** Extreme northern U.S. from Maine to Washington, and south to New Mexico in the Rocky Mountains.

**Wisconsin distribution:** From three counties: two in the Central Plain and Bayfield County in the Northern Highland.

**State rank:** S1/S2.

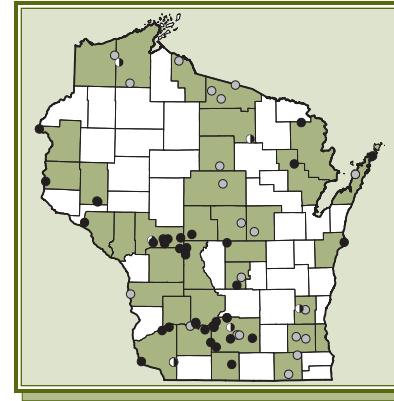
**Habitat:** Three of 4 Wisconsin sites are in jack pine barrens in the sand areas of the Northwest and Central Plains.

**Discussion:** Adults are collected in August.

**Specimens examined:** 9 specimens from 4 sites.

**References:** Hebard (1932), Otte (1981), Vickery and Kevan (1985).

**see Color Plate, p. 34**



***Chloea conspersa***  
(Harris)

**Sprinkled Grasshopper**

**Description:** Small, light brown grasshopper. Forewings to end of abdomen with rounded tips in males, much shorter and pointed in females. Lateral lobes of male pronotum entirely black. Hind femora with a central white spot on outside. Hind tibiae reddish-orange, black at base.

**Range:** Similar to *C. abdominalis*, but extending further south. Southern range extends from South Carolina west to Colorado.

**Wisconsin distribution:** Widespread across the state.

**State rank:** S5.

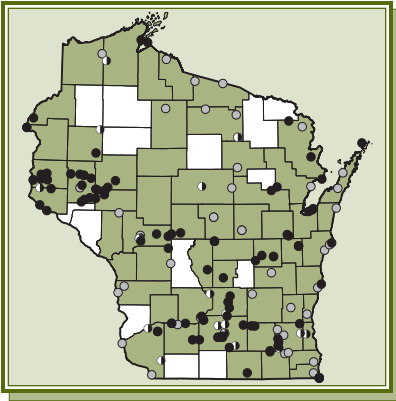
**Habitat:** Thickets and edges of dry open woods.

**Historical notes:** There is 1 specimen from the ACNAT collected in 1900-labeled "Wis".

**Discussion:** Adults are collected from late June to October, most commonly in July and August.

**Specimens examined:** Over 100 specimens from 74 sites.

**References:** Hebard (1932), Cantrall (1968), Otte (1981), Vickery and Kevan (1985).



***Chorthippus curtipennis***  
(Harris)  
**Marsh Meadow Grasshopper**

**Description:** Small, light brown grasshopper with forewings to end of abdomen in males, shorter in females. Head strongly slanted. Body dark on the sides and pale yellow below. Hind tibiae yellow to straw colored.

**Range:** Widespread across most of North America, but absent from the southeastern U.S.

**Wisconsin distribution:** Widespread, most likely occurring in every county of the state.

**State rank:** S5.

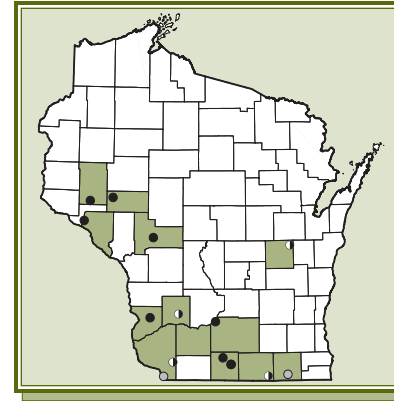
**Habitat:** Highly variable, but common in low wet prairies. Bomar (2001) reported this as a common species in newly constructed prairies.

**Discussion:** Adults are collected in late June to October. This species is very mobile, commonly found in urban areas on warm dry windy days in late August through September.

**Specimens examined:** Specimens recorded from 189 sites.

**References:** Hebard (1932), Cantrall (1968), Otte (1981), Vickery and Kevan (1985), Pfadt (1994).

**see Color Plate, p. 34**



***Dichromorpha viridis***  
(Scudder)  
**Shortwinged Green Grasshopper**

**Description:** Medium-sized grasshopper. Body color green and/or brown. Females may be unicolorous but the male dorsum is usually lighter than the sides. Head strongly slanted. Forewings usually shorter than abdomen.

**Range:** Eastern half of U.S., extending into central Mexico.

**Wisconsin distribution:** In counties at or below the Tension Zone.

**State rank:** S2/S4.

**Habitat:** Preferential to grasses at the edges of woodlands, most commonly found in association with heavy soils.

**Historical note:** One specimen stored at the INHS is labeled "Geneva Lake, Williams Bay, Oct 11, 1881". This is the oldest Wisconsin grasshopper collection record that we found.

**Discussion:** Adults were collected from July to October. No macropterous specimens were found.

**Specimens examined:** 16 males, 9 females from 19 sites.

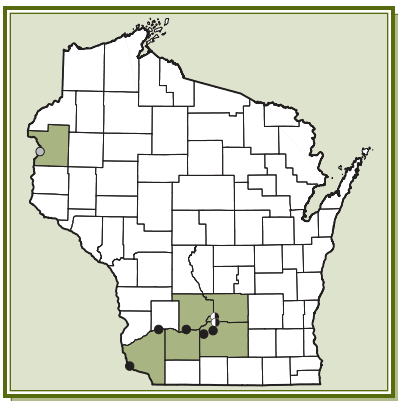
**References:** Hebard (1932), Cantrall (1968), Otte (1981), Vickery and Kevan (1985).

**see Color Plate,  
p. 33**



GIFF BEATON





***Eritettix simplex***  
(Scudder)  
**Velvetstriped Grasshopper**

**Description:** Slender, medium-sized grasshopper with wings extending to end of abdomen, head with obvious slant. Body tan with brown markings in females, brown and green in males. Pronotum with three distinct longitudinal carinae (ridges).

**Range:** Two main regions: eastern slopes of the Appalachians eastward through Tennessee, and Central Great Plains from southern Canada to central Mexico. Current distribution maps suggest that these are not disjunct populations.

**Wisconsin distribution:** Most recent collections are from remnant dry prairie in Dane and Grant counties in southern Wisconsin.

**State rank:** S2/S3.

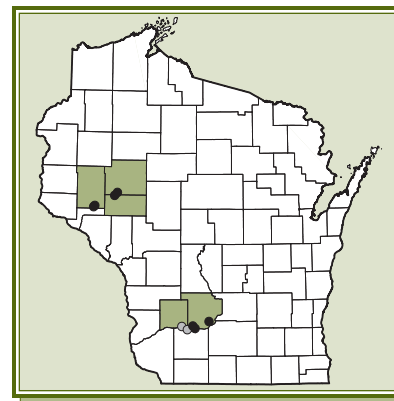
**Habitat:** Short to mixed grass stands, associated with remnant prairies. Somes (1914) infers a relationship with “low Wild sage, *Artemesia*”, but this was not observed in our collections.

**Discussion:** Nymphs overwinter and adults are generally collected from May to early July.

**Specimens examined:** 30 specimens from 13 sites.

**References:** Somes (1914), Hebard (1932,1934), Otte (1981), Vickery and Kevan (1985).

**see Color Plate, p. 34**



***Mermiria bivittata***  
(Serville)  
**Twostriped Slantfaced Grasshopper**

**Description:** Large, slender grasshopper with head dramatically slanted. With ensiform antennae. Forewings to end of abdomen, or nearly so. Dark brown band runs from behind the eye across the pronotum. Often referred to as a “toothpick” grasshopper.

**Range:** Widespread from the Carolinas to southern California. Its most prominent range is Central Great Plains, from southern Canada to central Mexico.

**Wisconsin distribution:** Most recent collections from Dunn, Chippewa, Eau Claire and Sauk counties south of the Tension Zone. These specimens greatly expand the reported range of this species in the Midwest.

**State rank:** S2.

**Habitat:** Associated with oak barrens, which in Wisconsin are dominated by black oak (*Quercus velutina*), and Hill’s oak (*Q. ellipsoidalis*), and remnant prairies. Northern specimens were found hanging from the branches of Hill’s oak.

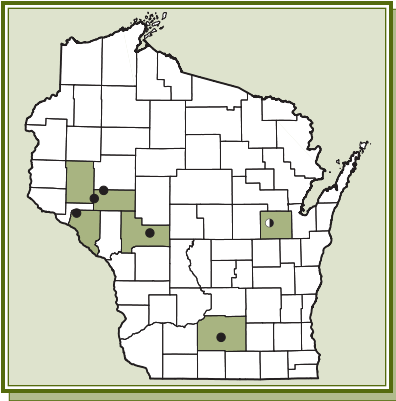
**Discussion:** Adults are collected from July to September.

**Specimens examined:** 20 specimens from 11 sites.

**References:** Hebard (1932, 1934), Otte (1981), Vickery and Kevan (1985), Pfadt (1994).

**see Color Plate, p. 33**





***Opeia obscura* (Thomas)**  
**Obscure Grasshopper**

**Description:** Small to medium-sized tan grasshopper, possibly with green markings on pronotum and forewings. Head strongly slanted. Forewings to near end of abdomen. Dark line present on top third of hind femora.

**Range:** Minnesota to California; most records are from the Great Plains from southern Canada to central Mexico.

**Wisconsin distribution:** South of the Tension Zone on light soils. Wisconsin collections greatly expand the reported range of this species. The specimen from dry prairie in Outagamie County may be the easternmost station for *O. obscura*.

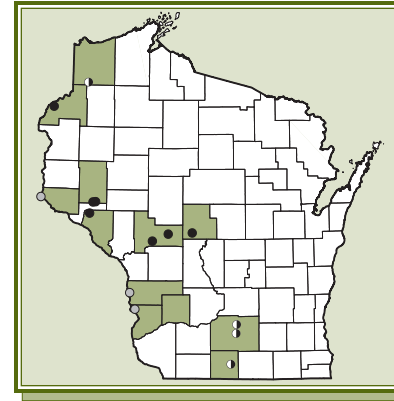
**State rank:** S2/S3.

**Habitat:** Dry prairie remnants, namely those sites that have full sun and the presence of bare ground and short grasses. Two collection sites are southwest-facing hills. *O. obscura* is associated with blue grama grass (*Bouteloua gracilis*) in the Great Plains.

**Discussion:** Most of the adults were collected in July from western Wisconsin. The Dane County specimen was collected from the UW Arboretum oak forest edge on August 21, 1997.

**Specimens examined:** 6 specimens from 6 sites.

**References:** Otte (1981), Vickery and Kevan (1985), Pfadt (1994).



***Orphulella pelidna***  
**(Burmeister)**  
**Spottedwinged Grasshopper**

**Description:** Small to medium-sized grasshopper. Body color green or brown. Head with an obvious slant. Lateral pronotal carinae cut by two or three sulci. Forewings extend beyond hind femora.

**Range:** Atlantic Coastal Plain to southern California, with scattered sites in western river valleys and the northern Midwest.

**Wisconsin distribution:** Western half of state.

**State rank:** S2/S3.

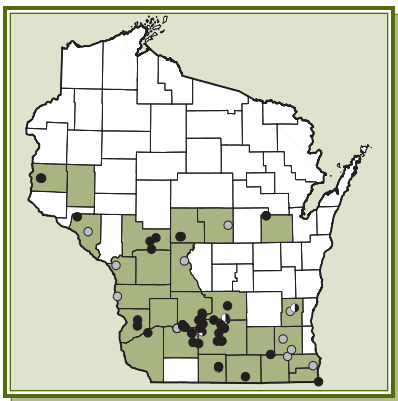
**Habitat:** Seven of 14 sites in Wisconsin are sandy upland associated with ephemeral pools, freshwater marsh, or river terrace. The others are dry prairie and pasture.

**Discussion:** Adults are collected throughout July and August. The Wood County specimen was collected July 1, 1998.

**Specimens examined:** 12 males, 2 females from 14 sites.

**References:** Froeschner (1954), Cantrall (1968), Otte (1981), Vickery and Kevan (1985).

**see Color Plate, p. 34**



***Orphulella speciosa***  
(Scudder)  
**Pasture Grasshopper**

**Description:** Small grasshopper. Body color variable, but often males green and females brown. Head with an obvious slant. Lateral pronotal carinae cut by one sulcus. Forewings extend to knees of hind femora.

**Range:** Central Plains from Mexico to southern Canada, east to Maine north of the Appalachians.

**Wisconsin distribution:** Widespread below the Tension Zone.

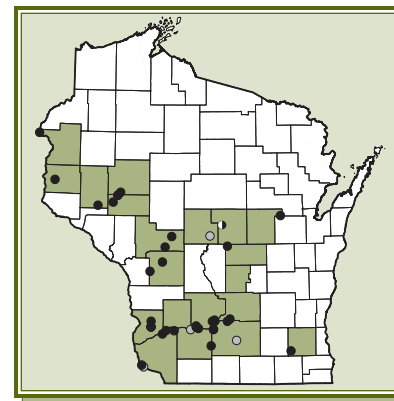
**State rank:** S5.

**Habitat:** Dry to dry-mesic prairies, pine/oak barrens, but highly variable.

**Discussion:** Adults are collected from July to September, most from late July to mid-August. The Washington County specimen was collected June 18, 1983.

**Specimens examined:** Over 100 specimens from 73 sites.

**References:** Froeschner (1954), Cantrall (1968), Otte (1981), Vickery and Kevan (1985).



***Pseudopomala brachyptera*** (Scudder)  
**Bunchgrass Grasshopper**

**Description:** "The Toothpick". Long, narrow, tan/brown grasshopper with strongly slanted head and strongly ensiform antennae. Wings of males do not reach ends of hind femora, shorter in females.

**Range:** Primarily southwestern Canada and northern U.S. south to Utah, Oklahoma, and New Jersey.

**Wisconsin distribution:** South of the Tension Zone.

**State rank:** S5.

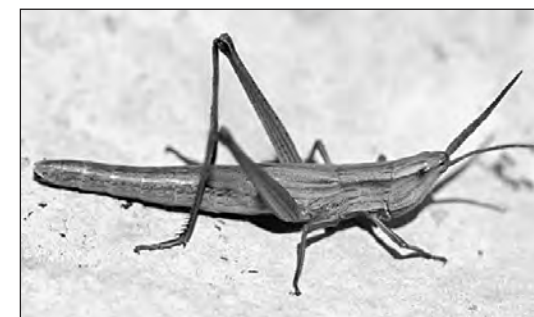
**Habitat:** Highly variable, from remnant bluff prairies, sand prairies, and pine barrens to weedy roadside and forest edges.

**Discussion:** Adults collected from mid-June to early September. Most (39 of 46) are from the latest collection period and are never abundant where found. We have not observed this species in moist habitats in Wisconsin as has been reported elsewhere (Cantrall 1968, Vickery and Kevan 1985).

**Specimens examined:** 40 males, 6 females from 35 sites.

**References:** Froeschner (1954), Cantrall (1968), Otte (1981), Vickery and Kevan (1985).

**see Color Plate, p. 34**



DAN JOHNSON



***Syrbula admirabilis***  
(Uhler)  
**Handsome Grasshopper**

**Description:** Large, long-winged grasshopper with strongly slanted head. Variable in color from brown to green, but with a line of spots along the forewings. Male has a white marking behind eye and along lower edge of pronotum. Antennae slightly clavate. Hind femora with pale bands near knees.

**Range:** Mexico across southeastern U.S. and north to Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.

**Wisconsin distribution:** Southwest corner of the state in Crawford, Grant, and Iowa counties.

**State rank:** S2?.

**Habitat:** Three of the four sites collected 1998-1999 are dry prairie on high bluffs in the Driftless Area. No habitat information is available for the Iowa County site, though the area has similar topography.

**Discussion:** The Hogback Prairie in Crawford County, Wisconsin and Gratiot County, Michigan (Cantrall 1968) are the only known sites for this species above the 43<sup>rd</sup> Parallel. The species may be limited to high "islands" of suitable habitat at the northern border of the range. Adults were collected in Wisconsin from August 12 to September 7.

**Specimens examined:** 3 males, 1 female from 4 sites.

**References:** Hebard (1934), Cantrall (1968), Otte (1981).

**see Color Plate, p. 33**



KATHRYN KIRK

# GRASSHOPPER SPECIES ACCOUNTS



GIFF BEATON

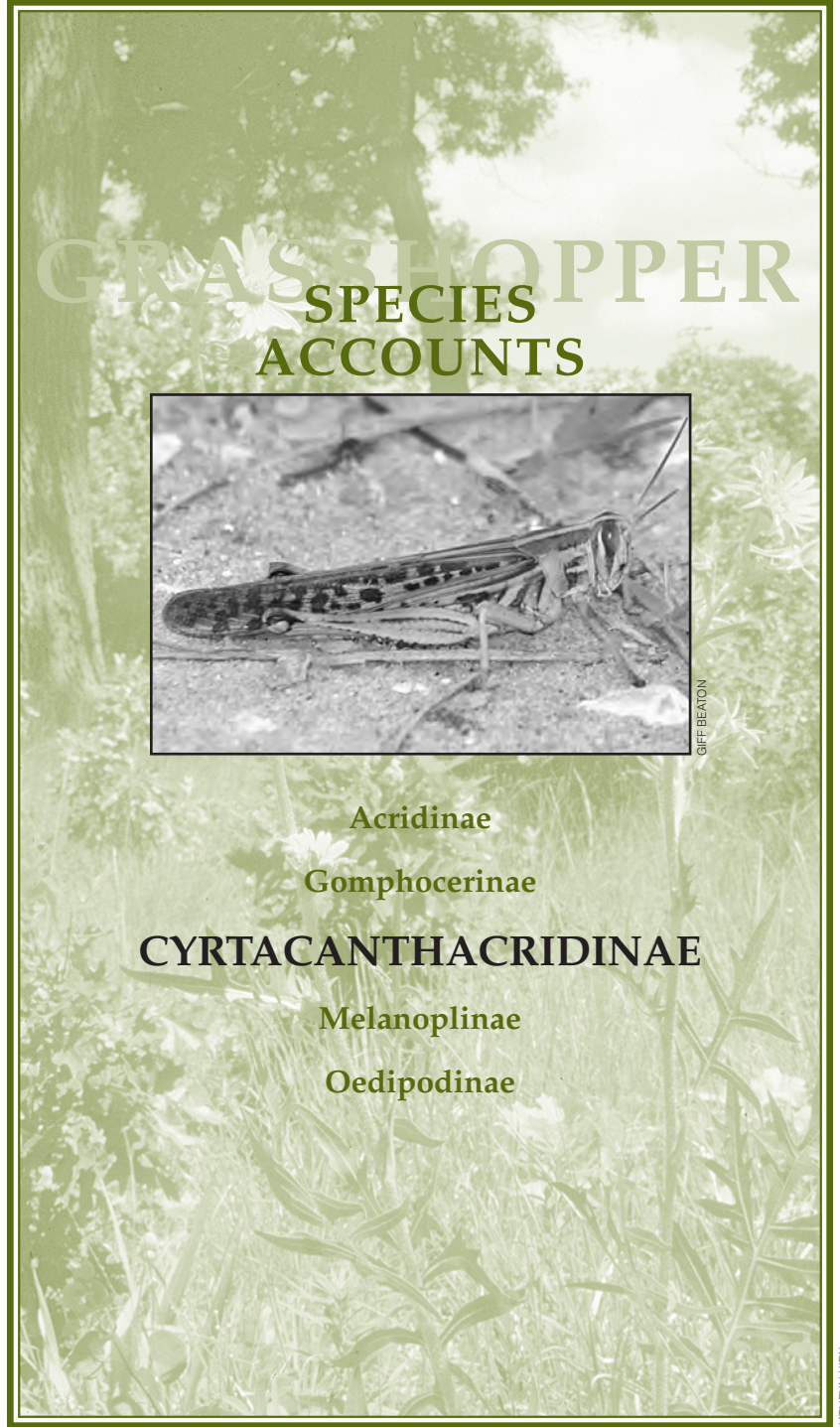
Acridinae

Gomphocerinae

CYRTACANTHACRIDINAE

Melanoplinae

Oedipodinae



KATHRYN KIRK